

FRAMEWORK FOR MEMBERSHIP



**THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY
OF PLAISTERS**

2021 Edition

Framework for Membership

The Worshipful Company of Plaisterers welcomes as members those who understand and support the aims of the Company, contribute to the Plaisterers' Charity and attend Company events.

The Worshipful Company of Plaisterers is committed to promoting equality, fairness and respect, and an atmosphere where diversity is recognised and valued.

This Framework provides guidance for those interested in joining and Liverymen wishing to introduce potential new members. Within a diverse membership the Plaisterers are looking for...

".....lively, interesting individuals from all walks of life....."

Criteria

Entry into the membership is at three levels - Apprentices, Freemen and Liverymen. The procedure for Apprenticeship is explained later. For those over 18 years of age, successful election to the Freedom of the Company is the first step. Then, having applied for and become a Freeman of the City of London and being 25 years of age, the applicant is eligible to seek election as a Liveryman.

What makes a good Plaisterer?

The Company wishes to attract a mix of new members from varied backgrounds, experience and generations. Above all we are seeking *contributors* and *ambassadors*.

Whilst age is no barrier, we would like to encourage *young* men and women to become Freemen and Liverymen and, to facilitate greater attendance at Livery events, people who live close to London and/or work in the City

In essence, we are looking for lively, interesting individuals from all walks of life who would enjoy giving support to fellow members, acting in the best interests of the Company and its reputation, and getting involved in the Company and its affiliations.

Expectations of our Members

LIVERYMEN

The expectation of our Liverymen has many strands, these include:

- having a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of all that the Company does and why
- support the Company's affiliations, and where appropriate, our plastering industry activities
- regularly donating to the Plaisterers' Charity
- attendance at as many Company events as possible and, as a minimum, two Livery events a year
- bringing guests who may also wish to join the Company
- being a good ambassador for the Plaisterers' Company and the Livery movement in general
- being prepared to consider joining a committee and consider the prospect of becoming a member of the Court and eventually Master
- a practical understanding of the workings of the City of London and the office of Lord Mayor

FREEMEN

The expectation of Freeman:

- enthusiasm for the Company and attendance at events open to Freeman
- support the Company's affiliations, and where appropriate, our plastering industry activities
- donating to the Plaisterers' Charity
- Freeman are entitled to attend four formal functions a year – the Annual Banquet, Common Hall & Robing Ceremony, the Training Awards and the Carol Service & Supper
- Freeman also receive information about other events and activities during the year including the Lord Mayor's Show which is usually followed by lunch at the Hall

APPRENTICES

The expectation of Apprentices:

- interest in the Company and its aims
- willingness to attend the Carol Service as a guest of the Company
- willingness to attend the Robing Ceremony as a guest of their Master
- willingness to participate in other events organised for Apprentices
- proceed to the Freedom of the Company and the City of London on completion of the Apprenticeship

Methods of Entry

Servitude: Available for relatives of Liverymen between the ages of 14 and 18 who are not eligible for entry by Patrimony (see below) and for appropriate candidates from organisations affiliated to the Company. Further information may be obtained from the Clerk's Office.

Patrimony: Available to any child born after their father's or mother's election to the Livery.

Redemption: Available to applicants who have been duly proposed and seconded and recommended to the Court by the Membership Committee after interview.

Industry: Available to applicants working in the Plastering Trade, who have been proposed by the Industry Committee.

By invitation: Exceptionally, the Court may invite a person to become an Honorary Freeman or Liveryman of the Company.

Freemen must be at least 18 years of age, Liverymen must be at least 25 years of age.

It is recognised that the Company will benefit from recruiting more members under the age of 25, ie those who cannot advance immediately to the Livery. There is the likelihood that they will be aware of the Company but not necessarily know many members. Consideration will always be given to the best way to involve them and what the appropriate procedure should be.

*Freemen from the Plastering trade will be identified from time to time by the Industry Committee and special arrangements made for their introduction to the Company.

Mentoring

The Court recognises that it takes a little time for new members to become fully integrated such that they become regular attenders. To that end, a two-year period of mentoring for new members will be provided.

Family Members

If they wish to become Freemen or Liverymen, spouses, partners and other family members must be able to demonstrate that they conform to the same criteria as those joining as 'strangers'.

Process

Freemen Applicants only:

- Prospective Freemen must be proposed and seconded by two Liverymen
- Prior to an application being made, prospective members must have attended at least two Livery events including an informal '*Potential Members' Evening*'
- Be interviewed by a Panel drawn from the Membership Committee
- After two years of membership, a Freeman may apply to become a Liveryman

The applicant becomes a Freeman once they have been elected by the Court and have subsequently been admitted to the Freedom by the Clerk. They receive their Freedom Certificate at the ensuing Robing Ceremony.

Liverymen Applicant (either Freemen or those new to the Company):

- Prospective Liverymen must have been known to their Proposer for a minimum of two years
- Their Proposer and Secunder must both be Liverymen (one being a member of the Court)
- Prior to an application being made, prospective members must have attended at least two Livery events including an informal '*Potential Members' Evening*'
- Be interviewed by a Panel comprising members of the Court

Livery status takes effect from the day of election by the Court. New Liverymen are 'Robed' at the ensuing Robing Ceremony.

Industry Freemen

- Prospective Freemen who work or have worked in the Plastering Trade
- Industry Committee to review application and proof of Trade connection, and interviewed by 2 members of the Committee
- Proposed to Membership by the Chairman of Industry
- Prior to an application being made, prospective members must have attended at least two Livery events including an informal '*Potential Members' Evening*'
- Can progress to Livery after two years as Freeman

Proposers/Seconders ('sponsors')

Sponsors, for those only seeking the Freedom, must be Liverymen but need not have known the applicant for a specific period of time

One of the sponsors for those seeking to become a Liveryman must be a Liveryman and have known the applicant for a minimum of two years and one must be a Court Member

Having submitted the Application Form, the Proposer (or if not available, the Secunder) will be invited to discuss the applicant's suitability with the Membership Committee.

The Proposer is expected to work with the Membership Committee and the Clerk all the way through the membership process. In the case of a Livery application, this should include encouraging and assisting with progressing the application for the Freedom of the City of London.

After election, the Proposer is asked to mentor the new member for at least two years to ensure that they become fully integrated into the Company. In the case of Industry Freemen the Industry Committee has this responsibility.

Going Forward

Once a Liveryman is satisfied that a potential candidate meets the criteria set out within the Framework, they should contact the Clerk's Office to obtain an Application Pack. The completed Application Form with all the relevant supporting information should be sent to the Clerk's Office.

These packs will also be available at all '*Potential Members' Evening*' events. These evenings are publicised to the membership on a regular basis and are an excellent opportunity for individuals to meet with other members of the Company, including the Court, in a more informal setting and to learn about the Company, its history, engagement with the industry, with our military affiliates and our charity involvement.

Contact Us

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